



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581

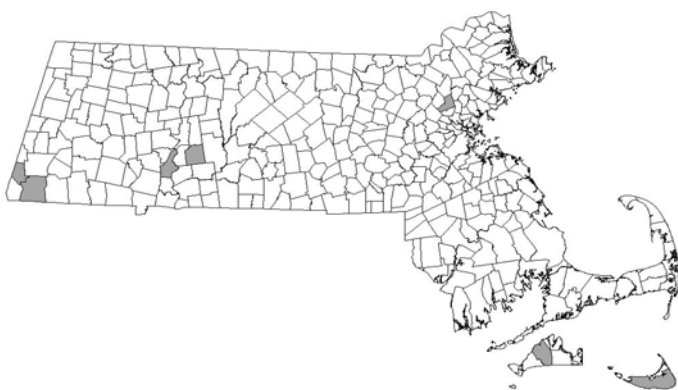
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www.nhesp.org

Description: Hairy Agrimony is a perennial herb of woodlands, especially in openings, on ledges, and along trails. A member of the rose family (Rosaceae), it has small, yellow flowers, opposite, divided leaves, and dense hair throughout.

Aids to identification: Hairy Agrimony grows 1 to 2.5 feet (30–80 cm) in height. The leaves are pinnately divided and slightly hairy (pubescent) above, densely so below, and velvety to the touch. The stem is densely hairy. There are 5 to 9 toothed, oblong leaflets on each stem. Interspersed between the larger leaflets are smaller ones of different sizes. The flowers, which bloom from July through September, are small (0.25 inch; 6 cm wide), yellow, five-lobed, and arranged along a narrow unbranched stalk (raceme). To aid seed dispersal, the cap-like fruits have hooked bristles that adhere to clothing and fur. When crushed, the flower gives off a lemony odor.

Similar species: Hairy Agrimony closely resembles the other four species of Agrimony native to Massachusetts. Hairy Agrimony can be separated from most other species of Agrimony by the absence of tiny, stalked glands on the axis (rachis) of the racemes. Coarse Agrimony, a common species which also has eglandular rachises, can be distinguished from Hairy Agrimony by its larger fruits and the presence of copious glandular dots on the undersurface of the leaves (dots few or absent in Hairy Agrimony).



Hairy Agrimony

Agrimonia pubescens

State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: None



Gleason, H.A. 1952. *The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. Published for the NY Botanical Garden by Hafner Press. New York.

Habitat in Massachusetts: Hairy Agrimony inhabits edges and openings within rich, rocky woodlands on steep slopes or ledges, often over circumneutral or calcareous bedrock. Interestingly, populations are present not only in the marble and traprock regions of the state, but also on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, indicating that this plant is not a strict calciphile. Its affinity for openings suggests that habitat conditions are most favorable with periodic disturbance. Hairy Agrimony is often associated with a canopy of White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), and hickories (*Carya* spp.). Associated herbs may include Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), White Wood-aster (*Eurybia divaricata*), White Avena (*Geum canadense*), and Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*).

Threats: Hairy Agrimony requires partial sun exposure. Therefore, forest maturation and canopy closure, resulting from a lack of natural or anthropogenic disturbance, often casts too much shade. Invasive exotic plant species may over-shade or out-compete Hairy Agrimony at some sites. Though much suitable habitat is apparently available for this species in Massachusetts, it is still quite rare, indicating that there are additional unknown factors influencing its distribution.

Fruiting time in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

Range: The range of Hairy Agrimony extends from Quebec, Maine, and Massachusetts, west to Ontario and South Dakota, and south to Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Georgia. It is also known to be rare in Delaware, South Carolina, and Quebec, and its status is under review in several states. Hairy Agrimony was historically known from Rhode Island and Vermont.

Population status in Massachusetts: Hairy Agrimony is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as Threatened. All listed species are legally protected from killing, collection, possession, or sale, and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. Hairy Agrimony is currently known from Berkshire, Dukes, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Nantucket Counties. It is historically known from Suffolk County.

Management recommendations: As with many rare species, the exact management needs of Hairy Agrimony are not known. Sites should be monitored for over-shading caused by forest succession, and for invasive plant species. Habitat sites that do not receive enough light can be managed with canopy thinning or prescribed burning. To avoid inadvertent harm to rare plants, all active management of rare plant populations (including invasive species removal) should be planned in consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.